



**Retail Orphan Initiative**  
Helping Vulnerable Children Worldwide  
[www.RetailROI.org](http://www.RetailROI.org)

## Case Study

### **RetailROI partners with Citizen Schools to close the opportunity gap in the US**

In many parts of the world, access to education is a primary challenge. In the US, however, access isn't the problem, lack of connection is – connection to communities, companies, and government and philanthropic resources.

The numbers are surprising. On average, students from middle- and upper-income families spend 300 more hours with adults and participate in \$8,000 worth of enrichment activities each year. By the time they reach 6<sup>th</sup> grade, these students have likely spent 6,000 more hours learning than their lower-income peers. This time and opportunity translates into more success later in life.

Citizen Schools was created in Boston in 1995 to close this opportunity gap for the more than 3 million students in lower income families.

Citizen Schools partners with public middle schools with a goal toward creating lifelong learners and a transformed educational environment.

By expanding the middle school day, Citizen Schools offers 1) academic support through structured homework time and specialized classes; 2) apprenticeships with successful “Citizen Teachers” from the community; and 3) exploration and team-building exercises that expose them to career and higher education opportunities.

Citizen Schools are currently in 31 schools in 7 states, and the results look promising: Citizen School alumni are statistically more likely than their low-income peers to graduate high school, to enroll in post-secondary education, and to express interest in STEM careers.

Additionally, Citizen Schools estimates that, for the 2015-16 school year, 5,300 children were served, 4,700 volunteers engaged, and 244 AmeriCorps members utilized.

A grant from the Retail Orphan Initiative is marked to expand the program in California.

By partnering with schools, companies, and communities, Citizen Schools provides the opportunity for lower-income students to set and achieve their goals and puts them on course to be college and career ready.

To find out how you can help RetailROI, go to: <http://www.retailroi.org/donate>

To find out more about Citizen Schools, go to: <http://www.citizenschools.org>

